



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

May 7, 2004

NATIONAL NEWS

[Remarks By Vice President Cheney to the 16th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner](#)

PR Newswire, May 6, 2004

The following is a transcript of remarks by Vice President Cheney to the 16th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner at the Hilton-Washington, D.C. on May 5, 2004.

[Homeland Security Checks are in the Mail](#)

Los Angeles Daily News, May 5, 2004

The Department of Homeland Security announced Wednesday that it is issuing checks to cover security costs. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge made the announcement as part of the agency's Urban Area Security Initiative, designed to give recognition to the needs of cities.

[War, Terrorism Threats Create Jobs for New Graduates](#)

Insight Magazine, May 5, 2005

Six of the top 10 employers pledging to hire the most new college graduates this year, according to a Website dedicated to helping students find entry-level jobs, are linked to the war on terrorism and the homeland security industry.

[Ridge's Appearance at Utah not Expected to be a Fuss: Homeland Chief is Set to Address Commencement](#)

The Desert Morning News, May 6, 2004

University of Utah's high-profile commencement speaker may be an expert in national security, but his visit here won't require a high level of security screening for graduates and their families.

CONGRESS

[Members of Congress Debate Security of Nation's Railways](#)

Voice of America, May 5, 2004

Members of Congress have been asking more questions about government steps to strengthen security on the nation's railways. A congressional hearing Wednesday followed announcement by the Department of Homeland Security of a test program at a rail station outside of Washington aimed at scanning passengers for explosives.

[Baird's Appointment Proposal to Move to Floor Amid Criticism](#)

The Hill, May 6, 2004

Rep. Brian Baird's (D-Wash.) constitutional amendment proposal to allow temporary House appointments in the event of a catastrophe will move to the floor for a vote, presumably next week, although it failed to win support yesterday from a majority of House Judiciary Committee members.

[Democrats Propose Plan to Boost Biological Defenses](#)

Global Security Newswire, May 5, 2004

Seeking to fill a gap in the to strengthen U.S. biological defenses, House Democrats Tuesday introduced legislation intended to shorten the time required to develop drugs to counter new varieties of infectious agents.

HEARINGS

- [Subcommittee on Infrastructure and Border Security](#)
Hearing on Maritime Security, Select Committee on Homeland Security, May 5, 2004
- [Select Committee on Homeland Security](#)
Hearing on Progress in Addressing Management Challenges at the Department of Homeland Security, Full Committee, May 6, 2004

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

[FEMA Quickly Makes Funds Available For Eagle And Cerritos Fires Burning In Riverside County](#)

Geocomm.com, May 5, 2004

Within hours of being contacted by the state, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's FEMA authorized firefighting funds to help California fight the Eagle and Cerritos fires burning in Riverside County, Calif.

[Federal Government Releases Fire Grant Funds](#)

The Missoulian, May 6, 2004

The federal Department of Homeland Security sent another check Montana's way Wednesday, with a \$1.56 million grant to help offset firefighting costs for last summer's Cooney Ridge Complex outside Missoula. The funds were awarded by Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency.

[FEMA Awards Money to Buy 27 Flood-Damaged Homes in Decatur, Bluffton](#)

The News-Sentinel, May 3, 2004

The federal government will pay \$1.4 million to help buy 16 flood-damaged homes in Decatur and 11 in Bluffton, officials said Monday. Northeastern Indiana was hit hard by flooding during a weeklong string of storms last July.

[Huckabee Announces New \\$27 Million First Responder System](#)

Arkansas New Bureau, Thursday, May 6, 2004

Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas announced Wednesday that the state is developing a multimillion dollar wireless communication system to help emergency officials better communicate with each other.

[It's Fire Season Again in California](#)

The Washington Post, May 6, 2004

Wildfires have burned more than 19,000 acres in areas east of Los Angeles. More than 30 buildings, including 12 homes, have been destroyed.

- [Blazes Halted: Cooler Weather Aids Firefighter Efforts](#), *North County Times*, May 5, 2004

[Airlines to Test New Security Measures](#)

News 8 NBC Hawaii, May 6, 2004

The acting administrator of the Transportation Security Administration states that new technology should enhance aviation security and keep the system "one step ahead of those who seek to harm us."

- [Airports to Test New Security Measures](#), *The Bakersfield Californian*, May 4, 2004

[State Seeks \\$50 Million For Security](#)

Columbus Telegram, May 6, 2004

Nebraska officials ask for almost \$50 million in federal homeland security funds to go towards over 370 projects in 2004.

[Pataki Orders Health Emergency Training Exercise](#)

The Legislative Gazette, May 3, 2004

In an effort to give the state some practice, Pataki ordered the execution of a training exercise last week to test New York's preparedness in the event of a public health threat such as a disease outbreak, or a biological or chemical attack.

[Emergency Operations Center Gets Approval by County](#)

The Sweetwater Reporter, May 6, 2004

Nolan County Commissioners' Court recently approved to operate and maintain an Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for the cities of Sweetwater, Roscoe and Blackwell.

[ER Plan Responds to Post-9/11 Threats](#)

The Wellesley Townsman, May 6, 2004

Local emergency plans have been updated to deal with some new realities to include terrorist attacks, or any other disasters that could yield mass casualties.

[State Homeland Security gets \\$36M](#)

Birmingham Business Journal, May 6, 2004

Alabama's homeland security program, designed to help state and local agencies prevent and respond to acts of terror has been \$36 million in federal funding.

[Chicago Area Getting Nearly \\$40 Million For Security](#)

NWI Times.com, May 6, 2004

As part of the Department of Homeland Security's Urban Area Security Initiative, Chicago will receive federal funds this year to improve security.

[Local CERT Program Being Organized](#)

The Hillsboro Reporter, May 6, 2004

In order to have local residents prepared to react in the event of a disaster, local officials are holding a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program.

[Residents Trained for Emergencies](#)

Boston Globe, May 6, 2004

Belmont's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is part of a national initiative sponsored by the federal Department of Homeland Security to increase the preparedness of ordinary citizens for the range of potential major emergencies such as terrorism, earthquakes, tornados, fires, and floods

RELATED INFORMATION

OPINION

- **[Railways' Emergency Preparedness Off Track](#)**, *Newsday.com*, May 6, 2004
- **[Does Agency's Quick Growth Translate to Greater Safety?](#)**, *Washington Post*, May 6, 2004

SPOTLIGHT WEBSITE

- **[Lessons Learned Information Sharing](#)**, *Department of Homeland Security*

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Homeland Security or FEMA's Preparedness Division.